

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims**

1. (Currently Amended) A system in communication with a network comprising one or more network components ~~storage devices, and one or more hosts via a component, wherein application processes reside on the hosts, wherein the application processes configure and manage the hosts in which the application processes execute,~~ comprising:

a manager in communication with the network components ~~storage devices, the switching fabric component, and hosts in the network;~~ and

an interface process in communication with the manager and the network components, a ~~switching fabric component, and the hosts;~~ wherein the interface process performs:

obtaining information on ~~hosts and the switching fabric component in the network~~ components from the manager;

maintaining a rules file identifying application process residing on the network components and communication interfaces supported by the application process;

displaying information representing the ~~hosts and switching fabric component in the network~~ components;

receiving selection of one displayed network component;

accessing the rules file to determine at least one application process associated with the selected network component;

displaying information on the at least one determined application processes ~~process~~ associated with the selected network component ~~represented hosts and switching fabric component in the network,~~ wherein at least one of the determined application processes reside on the selected network component;

receiving selection of one of the displayed application processes;

accessing the rules file to determine information on the selected application process and the communication interface to use to launch the selected application process on the selected network component; and

launching the selected application process on the selected network component using the determined information and the determined communication interface from the rules file ~~residing on the represented hosts or switching fabric component.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising:  
a graphical output device coupled to the interface process for displaying one or more graphical objects representing the application processes on the network components ~~hosts or the switching fabric component~~, wherein the interface process is coupled to the graphical output device for effecting the display of the graphical objects on the graphical output device.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 2, wherein the interface process responds to selection of one of the objects representing one application process by effecting execution of the application process represented by that object.

5. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 4, further comprising:  
a store containing information regarding one or more ~~hosts and the switching fabric component~~ network components and one or more application processes residing on the network components ~~selected hosts and the switching fabric component~~.

6. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 5, wherein the interface process accesses the store, upon selection of one graphical object representing one of the network components ~~one host or the switching fabric component~~, to identify at least one application process residing on the selected network ~~host or the switching fabric component~~ represented by the selected object.

7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the application process is any of an executable application, a web-based browser application, a telnet session, or an SNMP application.

8. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 5, wherein the information on the network components ~~hosts~~ includes an identifier for the ~~host~~ network component and the application processes residing on the network components ~~host~~.

9. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 8, wherein at least one of the graphical objects representing one network component ~~host~~ provides a textual description of that network component.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) A network, comprising:  
network components, ~~at least one storage device; at least one host~~, wherein application processes reside on the network components ~~and hosts~~, wherein the application processes configure and manage the ~~hosts~~ network components in which the application processes execute;  
a manager system in communication with the network components;  
a switching fabric including switching fabric components enabling communication among the at least one storage device, the at least one host, and the manager system;  
an interface process in communication with the manager and the network components, ~~one switching fabric component, and the hosts~~, wherein the interface process performs:  
obtaining information on ~~hosts and the switching fabric component~~ in the network components from the manager;

maintaining a rules file identifying application process residing on the network components and communication interfaces supported by the application process;

displaying information representing the ~~hosts and switching fabric component~~ in the network components;

receiving selection of one displayed network component;

accessing the rules file to determine at least one application process associated with the selected network component;

displaying information on ~~the at least one determined~~ application processes process associated with the ~~selected network component, represented hosts and switching fabric component in the network,~~ wherein at least one of the determined application processes reside on the selected network component;

receiving selection of one of the displayed application processes;

accessing the rules file to determine information on the selected application process and the communication interface to use to launch the selected application process on the selected network component; and

launching the selected application process ~~on the selected network component~~ using the determined information and the determined communication interface from the rules file ~~residing on the represented switching fabric or hosts.~~

22. (Currently Amended) The network of claim 21, wherein the manager system further includes:

a graphical output device coupled to the interface process for displaying one or more graphical objects representing the application processes on the network components ~~hosts or switching fabric component~~, wherein the interface process is coupled to the graphical output device for effecting the display of the graphical objects on the graphical output device.

23. (Previously Presented) The network of claim 22, wherein the interface process responds to selection of one of the objects representing one application process by effecting execution of the application process represented by that object.

24. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:
- using a manager to communicate with network components in a network comprising one or more storage devices and one or more hosts via a switching fabric component, wherein application processes reside on the network components hosts, wherein the application processes configure and manage the ~~hosts~~ network components in which the application processes execute; and
  - using an interface process to communicate with the manager and the network components, a switching fabric component, and the hosts; and
  - using the interface process to perform operations comprising:
    - obtaining information on ~~hosts and the switching fabric component in the network components~~ from the manager;
    - maintaining a rules file identifying application process residing on the network components and communication interfaces supported by the application process;
    - displaying information representing the ~~hosts and switching fabric component in the network components;~~
    - receiving selection of one displayed network component;
    - accessing the rules file to determine at least one application process associated with the selected network component;
    - displaying information on the at least one determined application processes ~~process~~ associated with the selected network component ~~represented hosts and switching fabric component in the network~~, wherein at least one of the determined application processes reside on the selected network component;
    - receiving selection of one of the displayed application processes;
    - accessing the rules file to determine information on the selected application process and the communication interface to use to launch the selected application process on the selected network component; and
    - launching the selected application process on the selected network component using the determined information and the determined communication interface from the rules file ~~residing on the represented hosts or switching fabric component.~~

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24, further comprising:  
using the interface process to effect display of one or more graphical objects representing the application processes on the network components ~~hosts or the switching fabric component~~.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, further comprising:  
selecting one of the objects representing one application process to cause the interface process to effect execution of the application process represented by that object.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26, further comprising:  
providing in a store information regarding one or more network components ~~hosts and the switching fabric component~~ and one or more application processes residing on the network components ~~selected hosts and the switching fabric component~~.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27, wherein the information on the ~~hosts~~ network components includes an identifier for the ~~host~~ network components and application processes residing on the network components ~~host~~.

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27, further comprising:  
selecting one graphical object representing one ~~host or the switching fabric~~ network component to effect the interface process to access the store to identify at least one application process residing on the ~~host or the switching fabric~~ network component represented by the selected object.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the application process is any of an executable application, a web-based browser application, a telnet session, or an SNMP application.

31. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium including a program executed by a manager system in communication with network components in a network ~~comprising one or more storage devices and one or more hosts via a switching fabric component~~, wherein application processes reside on the network components ~~hosts and the switching fabric~~

~~component~~, wherein the application processes configure and manage the network components  
~~hosts and the switching fabric component~~ in which the application processes execute,  
comprising:

a manager communicating with the network components ~~storage devices and hosts in the~~  
~~network~~; and

an interface process in communication with the manager ~~and the network components,~~  
~~the switching fabric component, and the hosts~~; wherein the interface process performs:

obtaining information on the network components ~~hosts and the switching fabric~~  
~~component in the network~~ from the manager;

maintaining a rules file identifying application process residing on the network  
components and communication interfaces supported by the application process;

displaying information representing the ~~hosts and switching fabric component in~~  
~~the network~~ components;

receiving selection of one displayed network component;

accessing the rules file to determine at least one application process associated  
with the selected network component;

displaying information on the at least one determined application ~~processes~~  
~~process~~ associated with the selected network component ~~represented hosts and switching~~  
~~fabric component in the network~~; wherein at least one of the determined application  
~~processes reside on the selected network component~~;

receiving selection of one of the displayed application processes;

accessing the rules file to determine information on the selected application  
process and the communication interface to use to launch the selected application process  
on the selected network component; and

launching the selected application process on the selected network component  
using the determined information and the determined communication interface from the  
rules file residing on the represented hosts or switching fabric component.

32. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium of claim 31,  
wherein the interface process is coupled to a graphical output device and further performs:

displaying one or more graphical objects on the graphical output device representing the application processes on the network components ~~hosts or the switching fabric component~~.

33. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 32, wherein the interface process responds to selection of one of the objects representing one application process by effecting execution of the application process represented by that object.

34. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium of claim 33, wherein the program is executed to further perform operations comprising:

communicating with a store containing information regarding one or more network components ~~hosts and the switching fabric component~~ and one or more application processes residing on the network components ~~selected hosts and the switching fabric component~~.

35. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium of claim 34, wherein the interface process accesses the store, upon selection of one graphical object representing one of the network components ~~host or the switching fabric component~~, to identify at least one application process residing on the selected network ~~host or the switching fabric~~ component represented by the selected object.

36. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium of claim 34, wherein the information on the ~~hosts~~ network components includes an identifier for the ~~host and~~ application processes residing on the ~~host~~ network components.

37. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 31, wherein the application process is any of an executable application, a web-based browser application, a telnet session, or an SNMP application.

38. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the information in the rules file for at least one network component is obtained from an operator administrator and the information in the rules file for at least one other network component is obtained via standardized queries of the at least one other network component.



39. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein displaying information on the at least one determined application process comprises:

displaying information on a plurality of application processes residing on the selected network component to enable selection of one of the application processes on the selected network component to launch..

40. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the network components comprise hosts, storage devices, and at least one switching fabric, wherein the manager communicates with the hosts and storage devices via the at least one switching fabrics.